

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 172486

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, NATO, ENRG, UR

SUBJECT: ECONADS WORK PROGRAM: PROPOSED MEETING OF HEADS
OF ECONOMIC INTELLIGENCE

REF: USNATO 6532

1. OER DIRECTOR ERNST CONCURS WITH GERMAN SUGGESTION
NOTED REFTEL THAT PROPOSED MEETING OF ECONOMIC INTELLIGENCE
CHIEFS TAKE UP CENTRAL DISCUSSION TOPIC HAVING SIGNIFICANT
IMPORTANCE FOR THE ALLIANCE. ERNST PROPOSES THAT
PLANNED SESSION HAVE SOVIET ENERGY PROSPECTS AS ITS
UNDERLYING THEME AND FEATURE DISCUSSION TOPICS SUCH AS
THE EFFECTS OF SOVIET ENERGY SITUATION ON SOVIET ECONOMIC
GROWTH PROSPECTS, EAST-WEST TRADE AND THE USSR'S
RELATIONS WITH THE MIDDLE EAST AND LDCS. ERNST WOULD
BE PREPARED TO GIVE PRESENTATION AND LEAD DISCUSSION ON
SOVIET ENERGY PROSPECTS AND SUGGESTS THAT FRENCH, GERMAN,
BRITISH AND OTHER PARTICIPANTS MIGHT ADDRESS THEMSELVES
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TO TOPICS SUCH AS ECONOMIC GROWTH PROSPECTS, EAST-WEST
TRADE AND RELATIONS WITH OIL PRODUCING STATES AND LDCS
AS SEEN FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE U.S.S.R.'S FUTURE
ENERGY SITUATION. IN ADDITION TO CHIEFS OF ECONOMIC
INTELLIGENCE APPROPRIATE SPECIALISTS FROM ALL GOVERNMENTS
WOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND. TO ALLOW SUFFICIENT TIME

FOR PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS IT IS PROPOSED THAT THIS MEETING BE SCHEDULED FOR TWO FULL WORKING DAYS RATHER THAN 1-1/2 DAY WORKING SESSIONS OF PAST YEARS.

2. DEPARTMENT AND OER STRONGLY AGREE WITH MISSION'S ASSERTION NOTED REFTEL THAT A MEETING OF ECONOMIC INTELLIGENCE CHIEFS WOULD BE PARTICULARLY USEFUL IN EARLY 1979 IN VIEW OF TURNOVER AT TOP OF ECONOMIC DIRECTORATE. ERNST EXPRESSED HOPE THAT NEW ECONOMIC DIRECTOR GIBAULT WOULD BE ABLE TO VISIT WASHINGTON AT AN EARLY DATE AND IN ANY CASE PRIOR TO END OF 1978.

3. OPTIMALLY ERNST WOULD LIKE MEETING TO TAKE PLACE IN MARCH ALTHOUGH FEBRUARY MEETING DATE WOULD ALSO BE ACCEPTABLE.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: MISSION REQUESTED TO CONVEY TO OTHER COMMITTEE MEMBERS OUR STRONG INTEREST IN RETAINING MEETING OF ECONOMIC INTELLIGENCE CHIEFS IN 1978/79 WORK PROGRAM AND OUR DESIRE TO HAVE THIS SESSION INCLUDE PRESENTATIONS AS OUTLINED PARA 2.

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